

church, and, after a thorough search, no guns were found. John Metts recalled that the WLI and the Naval Reserves were searching the churches for guns, but the only items found were large numbers of election fliers encouraging members to “vote for Dockery.”<sup>95</sup>

Even though there was sporadic fighting throughout the southern sections of the First Ward, other pockets of fighting erupted in response to specific “threats.”<sup>96</sup> One such pocket was at Manhattan Park.<sup>96</sup> Around 2:15 P.M., while the Reverend I. S. Lee of St. Stephens A. M. E. Church was escorting William C. Jones and Sterling P. Adams through town to quiet the population, they were shot at by men from inside a building across the street in Manhattan Park.<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>95</sup> “Minutes of the Association of the WLI,” North Carolina Collection; Kirk, *A Statement of Facts*.

<sup>96</sup> There is confusion among contemporary accounts as well as those given by participants years afterward, but it appears that at least one man, Josh Halsey, lost his life as a result of the activity at Manhattan Park although some accounts indicate that an unnamed man *and* Halsey died at the scene. For more information on activity at Manhattan Park, see Clawson, “Recollections and Memories;” *Wilmington Messenger* November 11, 1898, November 12, 1898, November 13, 1898 and November 14, 1898; “Minutes of the Association of the WLI,” North Carolina Collection; Hayden, *WLI*; Jane Cronly, “Account of the Race Riot,” n.d., Cronly Family Papers, Duke University Library, Durham; *Evening Dispatch* (Wilmington), November 11, 1898; *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 12, 1898, November 13, 16, 1898; Prather, *We Have Taken a City*, 124-125; McDuffie, “Politics in Wilmington,” 716. Thalia Howe, a member of Wilmington’s black elite, witnessed a similar event from her home when a black man was shot in the street, his head ripped apart by the gunfire. Thalia’s recollections were passed to subsequent generations and provided to the researcher by Howe descendant Cynthia Brown, July, 2004. See also note 71 with letter from Metts regarding shooting of either Wright/ Halsey

<sup>97</sup> Part of the civilian organization under Hugh MacRae and J. Allan Taylor, the men were on the northeast corner of Sixth and Bladen when shots were fired in their direction from Manhattan Park.

Members of the military were informed that blacks were shooting at whites from Manhattan Park where there were several businesses, including a “disreputable dance hall run by a negro named Henry Nichols,” surrounded by a tall fence along Bladen Street. After a WLI group under command of Walker Taylor arrived on the scene after a double-quick march, the WLI searched the dance hall and arrested 4 men inside.<sup>98</sup>

A fifth man fled the building, refusing to stop for the military, and he was summarily shot dead. A witness recalled that the “volley tore off the top” of his head, and he fell on the “pavement on the south side of Bladen near Seventh.” Thomas H. Wright, a member of the WLI involved in the incident recalled that the machine gun squad was across from their lines and that they were fearful they would be shot if the gunners had opened fire on the buildings of Manhattan Park. However, Charles H. White of the machine gun squadron recalled that as a black man climbed over the fence, all of the gunners followed Jack Quelch (including Captain Kenan) in jumping from the wagon to catch him, leaving White alone with the gun and only a pocketknife for

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The men forced black ministers to accompany them throughout Brooklyn as they ordered black citizens to remain in their homes or in the woods before nightfall. Colonel William C. Jones was a former captain of the WLI, and Sterling P. Adams was an assistant engineer for the Atlantic Coastline Railroad. *Wilmington Messenger*, November 11, 1898; McDuffie, “Politics in Wilmington,” 719.

<sup>98</sup> There has been some confusion in the sources as to the number and names of men arrested at Manhattan Hall. Taylor’s report to the state adjutant general indicated that four men were arrested. The *Messenger* reported that six men, Henry Nichols, Tom Lane, Wisconsin Edwards, James Hill, S. T. Knight, and William Tate were arrested at the scene. They were later released on the sixteenth since there was no evidence against them. *NC Public Documents*, Adjutant General’s Report, 1899; *Wilmington Messenger* November 11, 1898; *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 16, 1898.